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~~(S//NF)~~ **SUBJ: POSSIBLE PERSONNEL CHANGES IN THE
 RUSSIAN MFA**

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(U) REPORT CLASS ~~S E C R E T~~ NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS.

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~~(S//NF)~~ 1.

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THERE ARE STRONG RUMORS IN
 THE MFA THAT RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER IGOR ((IVANOV)) IS GOING TO BE
 REMOVED. THE ULTIMATE DECISION ON HIS REMOVAL WILL
 DEPEND ON WHICH SIDE PREVAILS IN THE POWER STRUGGLE CURRENTLY BEING
 WAGED BETWEEN THE PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATION AND THE GOVERNMENT OF
 PRIME MINISTER YEVGENIY ((PRIMAKOV)), WITH IVANOV'S RETENTION DEPENDENT ON

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A VICTORY BY PRIMAKOV. [REDACTED]

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(S//NF) 2. [REDACTED] RUSSIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS (UN) MISSION IN GENEVA VASILY ((SIDOROV)) RECENTLY MADE MANY ENEMIES IN THE MFA BY HIS DRASTIC REDUCTION OF SLOTS AT THE GENEVA MISSION. MANY MFA OFFICERS HOLD HIM RESPONSIBLE AND BELIEVE THAT HE RESPONDED UNPROFESSIONALLY TO A MESSAGE FROM THE MFA FOR SLOT REDUCTIONS. IN THEIR OPINION, SIDOROV PROCEEDED TO ELIMINATE ABOUT HALF OF THE SLOTS AT THE MISSION RESERVED FOR "CLEAN" DIPLOMATS, AS OPPOSED TO INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS UNDER COVER, WITHOUT QUESTIONING THE CABLE OR ATTEMPTING TO MITIGATE ITS IMPACT ON THE MISSION. SEEING THAT THEIR CHANCES OF SERVING IN GENEVA HAVE NOW BEEN CUT IN HALF, MOSCOW-BASED MFA OFFICIALS ARE BLAMING SIDOROV AND TRYING TO ENGINEER HIS REMOVAL.

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(S//NF) 3. [REDACTED] PRIMAKOV LIKES RUSSIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN SERGEY ((LAVROV)) AND WANTS HIM TO REMAIN IN NEW YORK AND OUT OF THE POLITICAL FRAY UNTIL AFTER THE RUSSIAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN 2000, AT WHICH TIME PRIMAKOV PLANS TO GIVE HIM A HIGHER POSITION.

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